IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-52. (Canceled)

53. (new) A backup and retrieval system operating on a first network device and a second network device, the backup and retrieval system comprising:

a management software component that operates on the first network device;

a plurality of media software components communicatively coupled to the management software component that operate on at least a second network device; and

a storage device communicatively coupled to the media software components;

wherein the management software component selects a media software component among the plurality of media software components and controls the selected media software component; and

wherein the selected media software component comprises at least one software module directed to controlling backup and retrieval of data to the storage device, the at least one software module comprising an indexing software module directed to recording a physical address on the storage device where particular information is located.

54. (new) The system of claim 53, wherein the selected media software component comprises at least a second software module directed to controlling backup and retrieval of data to the storage device, the second software module comprising a data

mover software module directed to managing the physical transfer of data to and from the storage device.

55. (new) The system of claim 53, wherein the selected media software component comprises at least a second software module directed to controlling backup and retrieval of data to the storage device, the second software module comprising a library software module directed to controlling physical media of the storage device.

56. (new) The system of claim 53, wherein the management software component comprises at least one software module directed to coordinating usage of the storage device.

57. (new) The system of claim 56, wherein the at least one software module comprises an application software module directed to storing backup and retrieval preferences of a software application.

58. (new) The system of claim 56, wherein the at least one software module comprises an archive software module directed to tracking the location of data across library media.

59. (new) The system of claim 56, wherein the at least one software module comprises a jobs software module directed to managing system processes.

60. (new) The system of claim 56, wherein the at least one software module comprises a media usage software module directed to tracking usage of the storage device.

61. (new) The system of claim 56, wherein the at least one software module comprises a data transfer software module directed to coordinating the transfer of data between system software components, software modules, and the storage device.

62. (new) The system of claim 53, further comprising a client software component, communicatively coupled to the management software component and the selected media software component, that controls backups of a particular network device.

63. (new) The system of claim 62, wherein the client software component operates on the second network device.

64. (new) The system of claim 62, further comprising a third network device, wherein the client software component operates on the third network device.

65. (new) The system of claim 53, wherein the selected media software component communicates the physical address to the management software component.

66. (new) A backup and retrieval system operating across a network containing a plurality of network devices, the backup and retrieval system comprising:

a management software component that operates on a first network device of the plurality of network devices;

a plurality of media software components communicatively coupled to the management software component; and

a storage device communicatively coupled to the media software components, the media software components controlling backups to the storage device;

wherein the management software component selects a media software component among the plurality of media software components and controls the selected media software component; and

wherein the selected media software component comprises at least one software module directed to controlling backup and retrieval of data to the storage device,

the at least one software module comprising an indexing software module directed to recording a physical address on the storage device where particular information is located.

67. (new) The system of claim 66, wherein the selected media software component comprises at least a second software module directed to controlling backup and retrieval of data to the storage device, the second software module comprising a data mover software module directed to managing the physical transfer of data to and from the storage device.

68. (new) The system of claim 66, wherein the selected media software component comprises at least a second software module directed to controlling backup and retrieval of data to the storage device, the second software module comprising a library software module directed to controlling physical media of the storage device.

69. (new) The system of claim 66, wherein the management software component comprises at least one software module directed to coordinating usage of the storage device.

70. (new) The system of claim 69, wherein the at least one software module comprises an application software module directed to storing backup and retrieval preferences of a software application.

71. (new) The system of claim 69, wherein the at least one software module comprises an archive software module directed to tracking the location of data across library media.

72. (new) The system of claim 69, wherein the at least one software module comprises a jobs software module directed to managing system processes.

73. (new) The system of claim 69, wherein the at least one software module comprises a media usage software module directed to tracking usage of the storage device.

74. (new) The system of claim 69, wherein the at least one software module comprises a data transfer software module directed to coordinating the transfer of data between system software components, software modules, and the storage device.

75. (new) The system of claim 66, further comprising a client software component, communicatively coupled to the management software component and the selected media software component, that controls backups of a particular network device.

76. (new) The system of claim 75, wherein the client software component operates on the second network device.

77. (new) The system of claim 75, further comprising a third network device, wherein the client software component operates on the third network device.

78. (new) The system of claim 66, wherein the selected media software component communicates the physical address to the management software component.

79. (new) A backup and retrieval system for a network, the network comprising a plurality of computing devices, the plurality of computing devices comprising a first computing device and a second computing device, the backup and retrieval system comprising:

a management software component running on the first computing device, the management software component controlling a plurality of media software components communicatively coupled to the management software component;

at least one backup device communicatively coupled to the media software

components; and

a client software component that controls backups of any particular

computing device, the client software component communicatively coupled to the

management software component and the media software components;

wherein the media software components control the at least one backup

device and each comprise at least one software module directed to controlling backup and

retrieval of data to the at least one backup device, the at least one software module

comprising an indexing software module directed to recording a physical address on the

backup device where particular information is located; and

wherein at least one of either the media software components or the client

software component runs on the second computing device.

80. (new) The system of claim 79, wherein the media software

components each comprise at least a second software module directed to controlling

backup and retrieval of data to the storage device, the second software module

comprising a data mover software module directed to managing the physical transfer of

data to and from the storage device.

81. (new) The system of claim 79, wherein the media software

components each comprise at least a second software module directed to controlling

backup and retrieval of data to the storage device, the second software module

comprising a library software module directed to controlling physical media of the

storage device.

82. (new) The system of claim 79, wherein the management software component comprises at least one software module directed to coordinating usage of the storage device.

83. (new) The system of claim 82, wherein the at least one software module comprises an application software module directed to storing backup and retrieval preferences of a software application.

84. (new) The system of claim 82, wherein the at least one software module comprises an archive software module directed to tracking the location of data across library media.

85. (new) The system of claim 82, wherein the at least one software module comprises a jobs software module directed to managing system processes.

86. (new) The system of claim 82, wherein the at least one software module comprises a media usage software module directed to tracking usage of the storage device.

87. (new) The system of claim 82, wherein the at least one software module comprises a data transfer software module directed to coordinating the transfer of data between system software components, software modules, and the storage device.

88. (new) The system of claim 79, wherein the indexing software module communicates the physical address to the management software component.